

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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SHATEE DENMARK,

Plaintiff,

-against-

CITY OF NEW YORK and JOHN and JANE
DOE 1 through 10, individually and in their official
capacities (the names John and Jane Doe being
fictitious, as the true names are presently unknown),

Defendants.

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COMPLAINT

Jury Trial Demanded

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an action to recover money damages arising out of the violation of plaintiff's rights under the Constitution.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988, and the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

3. The jurisdiction of this Court is predicated upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343 and 1367(a).

4. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 (b) and (c).

JURY DEMAND

5. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury in this action.

PARTIES

6. Plaintiff Shatee Denmark (“plaintiff” or “Mr. Denmark”) is a resident of Kings County in the City and State of New York.

7. Defendant City of New York is a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York. It operates the NYPD, a department or agency of defendant City of New York responsible for the appointment, training, supervision, promotion and discipline of police officers and supervisory police officers, including the individually named defendants herein.

8. At all times relevant herein, defendants John and Jane Doe 1 through 10 were acting as agents, servants and employees of defendant City of New York and the NYPD. Defendants John and Jane Doe 1 through 10 are sued in their individual and official capacities.

9. At all times relevant herein, all individual defendants were acting under color of state law.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

10. On or about April 16, 2014, Mr. Denmark was apprehended by police officers.

11. He was ultimately taken to Kings County Criminal Court for arraignment.

12. After seeing the judge, he was taken by a corrections officer to the holding cell at the back of the courtroom.

13. Mr. Denmark was responsible for caring for his mother, and was distraught at leaving her home alone while he was awaiting release. While in the cell, he lost his composure and cried loudly.

14. Corrections officers entered the cell and began to beat Mr. Denmark. They punched him in the face, chest, and stomach.

15. The officers shackled Mr. Denmark's ankles and lifted him into the air by the shackles, causing him to fall on his elbows, forearms, hands, and face.

16. Mr. Denmark lost consciousness and woke in a pool of his own blood.

17. He was taken to Kings County Hospital, where he was given dressings for his eyes, an ice pack for his head and neck, as well as a neck brace. He was also given a hard cast for the pinky finger of his right hand.

18. He was ultimately taken to Rikers Island, where he remained for 10 days.

19. Mr. Denmark had to have physical therapy twice a week for several weeks as a result of his injuries.

FIRST CLAIM
42 U.S.C. § 1983

20. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation as if fully set forth herein.

21. Defendants, by their conduct toward plaintiff alleged herein, violated plaintiff's rights guaranteed by 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

22. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, plaintiff sustained the damages hereinbefore alleged.

SECOND CLAIM
Unreasonable Force

23. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation as if fully set forth herein.

24. Defendants violated the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments because they used unreasonable force on him.

25. As a direct and proximate result of this unlawful conduct, plaintiff sustained the damages herein before alleged.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, plaintiff respectfully requests judgment against defendants as follows:

- (a) Compensatory damages against all defendants, jointly and severally;
- (b) Punitive damages against the individual defendants, jointly and severally;
- (c) Reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1988; and
- (d) Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DATED: December 23, 2016
New York, New York

_____/s_____
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